

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC UR US

SUBJECT: CULTURAL EXCHANGES

1. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE POPOV, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN SWAMPED BY A RECENT INFUX OF US PERFORMERS AND EXHIBITS -- A VERITABLE "AMERICAN INVASION," HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK AT A MOSCOW RECEPTION HONORING A GROUP OF AMERICANS WHO HAD ATTENDED THE LENINGRAD OPENING OF THE SO-CALLED ARMAND HAMMER ART EXHIBIT. THE ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, THE ROY CLARK SHOW, THE HAMMER EXHIBIT AND THE VARIOUS PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS PLANNED FOR LATER IN THE YEAR PROVIDE MATERIAL FOR AN ARTICLE ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH THE USA, POPOV TOLD P&C COUNSELOR, AND HE ENVISAGES IT AS A FOLLOW-ON TO HIS JANUARY 21 INTERVIEW IN THE LITERATURNAYA GAZETA.

2. HERE, UNDER THE TITLE "CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH THE WEST: WHO IS 'IN DEBT' TO WHOM?" POPOV CITES THE USSR'S

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CONSISTENT ESPOUSAL OF SUCH EXCHANGES, CULMINATING IN

ITS POSITIONS TAKEN AT HELSINKI'S 1972 UNESCO CONFERENCE AND IN THE TEXT OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT. IT IS THE WEST, HE SAYS, WHICH HAS OBSTRUCTED THE FULL FLOWING OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE, BY STICKING RIGIDLY TO A QUOTA FOR THEM, BY TAXING EXCHANGES NOT IN AN AGREEMENT, BY DENYING SUBSIDIES TO CULTURAL EXCHANGE, AND BY INSISTING ON "PSEUDO-CULTURAL" GROUPS IN ITS PROPOSALS, IN WHICH CASE SUBSIDIES ARE AVAILABLE. DESPITE THESE AND OTHER OBSTACLES, THE USSR HAS PERSISTED, AND THERE IS A "CULTURAL EXCHANGE BOOM" NOW WHICH IS UNPRECEDENTED. SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S LEADERSHIP IN THIS PROCESS IS GIVEN FULL PRAISE (TEXT BY AIRGRAM.)

3. COMMENT: INCREASED ATTENTION PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE XXV PARTY CONGRESS ON THE SUCCESSES OF THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP HAVE EMPHASIZED THE USSR IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE "FIGHT FOR PEACE," CULMINATING IN THE CSCE FINAL ACT. AS THE USSR HAS FELT ITSELF MOST VULNERABLE TO CRITICISM ON BASKET III ISSUES, ITS RECENT COUNTER-ATTACK IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN SPIRITED.
STOESSEL

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